



NAIA Women's Volleyball General Meeting December 18, 2025 – 10:15am-11:45am

- I. Welcome Molly Karagyauroy
 - a. Introduction of Officers
 - i. President – Molly Karagyauroy, MidAmerican Nazarene University
 - ii. First Vice President – Trish Siedlik, Bellevue University
 - iii. Second Vice President – Ben Boldt, Concordia University
 - iv. Secretary – Liz Mendiola, College of Idaho
 - v. Past President – Pat Kendrick, Xavier University
 - vi. NAC Liaison – Corey Westra, GPAC Commissioner
 - b. Honored Guest – Tara McGuire, AVCA Membership & Communications Specialist
 - c. Attendance sheet for all Head and Assistant Coaches Liz Mendiola
- II. Presentations and Additional Guests (will address group when available)
 - a. U.S. Marines, Greg Gilliam, Community Engagement & National Partnership Director, Marine Corps Recruiting Command
 - b. Baden Sports, CEO-Jake Licht, Richard Scott, Jennifer Stock
 - c. Gared Performance Sports Systems, Drew Peterson
 - d. Hudl, Kamryn Schuler
 - e. RIP-IT, Chris Morton
 - f. PAVO, Julie Voeck
- III. Reports (see attached documents)
 - a. AVCA Liaison Report Candace Moats
 - b. NAIA Head Coaches Committee Report Candace Moats
 - c. Recognition Committee Report Stew McDole
 - d. Competition Committee Report Rick Pruett
 - e. National Selection Committee Report Corey Westra, Chair
 - f. NAIA National Office Report Fred Aubuchon
 - i. NAIA Legislative Process – See handout
 - ii. New NAIA Members – See handout
- IV. Sport Motions Review Molly Karagyauroy
 - a. SM 1 – Add an additional NAIA RPI and ARC ranking release in the middle of September bringing the total number of releases up to five.
 - b. SM 2 – Have the final release of the NAIA RPI and ARC ranking public before the national selection committee meets.
 - c. SM 3 – Add winning percentage as a primary criteria for national tournament selection.

- d. SM 4 - Remove "Results vs all teams under consideration for the National Tournament (including all teams that are represented in the final ARC Rankings as well as any team that finished first or second in their conference.)" from the national selection criteria.
- e. SM 5 – Require all post-season matches (conference or national) to be recorded from the end line view. Specifically, the film should be recorded behind the end line but between the sidelines
- f. SM 6 – Change the national film exchange policy from uploading their most recent game film to the Hudl video exchange program that does not include an opponent in the championship field to simply upload their most recent game film to the video exchange program.
- g. SM 7 – NAIA Opening Round host schools must remove portable basketball hoops from the volleyball playable area.
- h. SM 8 – Require Opening Round host schools to use a three ball system during the match.
- i. SM 9 – Add challenge review system (CRS) as a requirement for volleyball opening round hosts by the fall of the 2027 season. The requirement includes a minimum of three camera angles and the ability for the review to be done courtside on the scores table.
- j. SM 10 – Starting in 2027, All NAIA Championship qualifiers (Conference and regular season champions) are to be determined by the Friday evening before the NAIA National Selection Committee meeting, which takes place the following Sunday.

V. Reminder of Annual Business Meeting

Molly Karagyauroy

- a. 2:45pm-3:45pm in this room
- b. Voting on all Sport Motions
- c. Voting on Open Officer Positions

VI. Open Discussion

Molly Karagyauroy

VII. Adjournment

Molly Karagyauroy



NAIA Volleyball Head Coaches Committee Report

Over the course of the volleyball season, the NAIA Head Coaches Committee met monthly to discuss key areas impacting the present and future of NAIA volleyball. We had great conversations that were aimed at supporting the growth, fairness, and sustainability of volleyball. Each month we focused on certain areas and asked specific individuals on the committee to discuss updates. Some of those areas were:

1. Men's Volleyball

Ongoing Growth and Program Support

Luke Bently from William Penn University talked about the evaluated and rapid growth of men's volleyball within the NAIA and discussed how best to support emerging programs. Topics included:

- Encouraging new programs and offering guidance to schools exploring the sport.
- Identifying competitive balance concerns as the sport expands.
- Supporting coaches with resources related to recruiting, scheduling, and compliance.
- Strengthening communication between conferences to help increase the growth of Men's Volleyball. I thought this was an excellent addition as several of the Head Coaching Reps were both coaching women's and men's sides.

Future Opportunities discussed:

- Ideas for showcasing men's volleyball on a larger platform within the NAIA.
- Strategies to enhance visibility and collaboration with existing championships.

2. Awards:

Review of the Current Processes

Stew McDoyle addressed the area of awards, recognizing the importance of equitable and transparent selection procedures. Key points included:

- Ensuring all institutions have equal opportunity to nominate and highlight deserving athletes.
- Addressing challenges in balancing statistical performance, positional considerations, and team success.
- Reviewing timelines, criteria, and communication to eliminate confusion.

Recommendations

- Continued standardization of award voting materials and criteria.
- Additional training for coaches on best practices in award submissions within conferences.

3. Updates from the NAIA Executive Committee

Throughout the season, a member of the Executive committee gave updates on various initiatives being evaluated or implemented by the NAIA Executive Committee. Discussion areas included:

- Policy changes that could impact volleyball programs nationally.
- Adjustments to championship formats and qualification processes.

- Broader governance topics relevant to coaches and student-athletes.

The Head coaches committee provided feedback when appropriate, offering the perspective of those working most closely with athletes and programs. This was another way to bring in more discussion and involve interest in better NAIA Volleyball.

4. Growing NAIA Volleyball

Strategic Ideas and Long-Term Vision

A major emphasis of every meeting was on how to strengthen and grow NAIA volleyball. Key areas of focus included:

- Increasing national visibility for both men's and women's volleyball.
- Encouraging investment in facilities, staffing, and resources at member institutions.
- Enhancing collaboration among conferences to share best practices.
- Supporting newer programs to ensure long-term viability and competitiveness.

Sustainability and Recruitment

- Identifying ways to improve the recruiting pipeline for NAIA programs.
- Promoting the NAIA as a strong option for student-athletes through clear messaging and storytelling. This was done with a project we worked on as a committee that was titled, "Why NAIA?" It discussed the value of competing the Right Way and mentioned many advantages for athletes to consider NAIA institutions.
- Key benefits and distinctions of the NAIA model.
- Links to educational materials, compliance resources, and recruiting information.
- Messaging aimed at helping prospective student-athletes understand the value of choosing an NAIA program.

5. Collaboration with AVCA and Growth Initiatives

Increasing NAIA Presence within the AVCA

The committee discussed numerous strategies to broaden the visibility of NAIA volleyball within the AVCA organization and its annual convention. Ideas included:

- Encouraging more NAIA coaches to submit session proposals and serve as presenters.
- Nominating deserving NAIA coaches and contributors for AVCA Hall of Fame consideration.
- Exploring additional NAIA-led sessions, roundtables, or networking opportunities.
- Promoting greater overall attendance from NAIA programs and staff by strengthening the value of convention participation.

These efforts aim to highlight the expertise, innovation, and leadership present within NAIA volleyball.

Enhancing the National Tournament Experience

Improving the National Championship format and experience was a recurring topic. Discussions included:

- Enhancing student-athlete experience both on and off the court.
- Reviewing match scheduling, facility layout, and event flow for continued improvement.
- Ensuring that the tournament reflects competitive excellence and strong organizational standards.

Guest Speakers and Professional Development Topics

Several committee meetings featured guest speakers who addressed relevant and timely topics impacting coaches and programs across the NAIA. Areas covered included:

- Mental health support for student-athletes and staff.
- Best practices and policies for international student athletes.
- Transfer portal regulations and transitional challenges.
- Team culture development and leadership strategies.
- Building professional networks and strengthening coach-to-coach collaboration.

These sessions added depth to the committee's work and offered practical tools for program development.

Conclusion

The Head Coaches Committee has maintained strong, consistent engagement throughout the volleyball season, demonstrating a shared commitment to fairness, growth, and the ongoing success of NAIA volleyball. The discussions summarized in this report reflect the collective dedication of coaches across the country who are working to elevate both the competitive quality and the student-athlete experience within the NAIA.

Following the AVCA convention, I will be saying good-bye as the representative of the NAIA on the AVCA board. I have served two-three-year terms and will not be returning for another term. I am pleased to let everyone know that my replacement, Megan Lenhart, the Head Coach of Cornerstone University, will do an excellent job and bring fresh ideas to the committee going forward. I will continue to serve on the Head Coaches Committee as the representative for the Crossroads League. Thank you to everyone who came alongside me these past six years. I have learned and grown so much with all of you in my life!



NAIA Women's Volleyball National Selection Committee

I. Committee Members

- a. Corey Westra, NAC Liaison, GPAC Commissioner – Chair
- b. Kristin Steele, At-Large Administrator, OUAZ
- c. Jaunelle White, At-Large Administrator, Point
- d. Pat Kendrick, Past President, Xavier
- e. Trish Siedlik, Executive Committee, Bellevue
- f. Kaki Morehead, West ARC Chair, Eastern Oregon
- g. Ben Boldt, Midwest ARC Chair, Concordia
- h. Scott Haddix, North ARC Chair, Saint Francis, Ind.
- i. Kristen Coventon, South ARC Chair, Oklahoma City
- j. Kathryn Park, East ARC Chair, Cumberlands, Ky.

II. National Volleyball Selection Committee Report

- a. The National Selection Committee successfully operated under the updated structural requirements for the 2025 season, maintaining full compliance with NAIA guidelines.
- b. This included ensuring no more than two committee members represented the same conference and no more than three came from the same ARC. Despite the unexpected departure of an administrative member late in the season, the committee followed NAIA recommendations and did not pursue a replacement, allowing the group to move forward efficiently and cohesively.
- c. Final ARC Ratings were submitted on Saturday, November 15 at 11:00 p.m. CST. Within a remarkably quick turnaround, the NAIA office produced the official NAIA RPI, Strength of Schedule calculations, and all ARC Ratings by 10:00 a.m. on Sunday, November 16. This timely delivery of data supported a smooth and well-informed selection process.
- d. The National Selection Meeting lasted 9 hours and 43 minutes, during which committee members demonstrated exceptional collaboration and consistency. The Primary Criteria were applied for all 15 At-Large selections, with Secondary Criteria used as needed. These same criteria guided the seeding of the 48-team national tournament field, ensuring transparency and competitive fairness.
- e. Following the completion of the selection and the seeding process, committee leadership and the NAIA office conducted a thorough review of Opening Round matchups. Policies were carefully followed to avoid conference-on-conference pairings and to reduce the number of flights—successfully decreasing travel needs from 16 flights to just 8. Importantly, no teams ranked in the top 24 were moved during this process, preserving bracket integrity.
- f. This year's bracket integrity is widely considered the strongest it has been in more than a decade. Competitive outcomes reflected this: all top eight seeded teams advanced to the quarterfinals, and the top four seeds all advanced to the semifinals.

III. The following areas can and should be addressed for the 2026 season:

- a. The validity and understanding of the Massey Rankings – we all agree a better understanding of the metrics used in Massey need to be evaluated and better understood.
- b. The measurement of SOS in the NAIA RPI – it is believed that there may be too much weight on opponents-opponents records. A study of this may be needed to see if SOS can be better measured.

- c. A metric is needed to measure quality wins for a team's resume – the selection process could benefit from a Quad Win system that is used in basketball selection. This system will show strong wins and losses that stand out against the field. This metric will help to make determinizations when teams are very close in comparative criteria.
- d. The measurement of records against teams in the field – this metric needs to be cleaned up, better defined, or removed. Quad wins would be a better measurement that can be determined up front in the process.
- e. Some sort of measurement that indicates the quality of how you win or lose – right now a 3-0 win is looked at in the same way as a 3-2 win. A 0-3 loss is measured the same way as a 2-3 loss. Looking at a measurement of efficiency of play and scores would be well served to the process.
- f. Overall, the process showed high-level professionalism, data-driven decision-making within the parameters we had to work with, and a continued commitment to competitive excellence across NAIA Volleyball.
- g. As always, a professional and broad-based review of the processes by membership serves everyone well and can only strengthen the process for the entire membership.

IV. Note from the Chair – I want to thank the Selection Committee members who poured much time and energy into the process to determine the 2025 NAIA Women's Volleyball Championship field.



Coaches Association – National Office Report

NAIA Legislative Process

Use the Legislative Services handout to explain the difference between sport policy and NAIA bylaws, as well as the avenues available for making amendments to each.

Explain the voting process, including:

- On-site straw polls
- Electronic ballots distributed for full votes
- Requirement that 50% of coaches—either in attendance or participating electronically—must vote to move an issue forward to the NAC

NAIA's Role in Coaches Associations

The Sport Manager is present to help coaches associations navigate issues and provide guidance on topics and processes. We do not make decisions; rather, we serve as facilitators to advance the issues that you, the coaches, want to implement within your sport.

NAC's Role

Introduce the NAC representative.

The NAC initiates operational policies for conferences/CAC, national championships, national statistical services, national awards, and event management.

The NAC meets four times a year (January, April, June, and August) to review motions. Review when sport-specific motions will be considered by the NAC.

Sponsorship Update

Official Ball: Baden Volleyball.

Site Selection

Tyson Events Center in Sioux City, Iowa is contracted through the 2028 Volleyball Season.

Applicable Approved Legislation from the 2025 Convention

- Realignment of ARCs for Women's Volleyball and other sports.
- Updated facility requirements for hosting opening round matches.

NAIA Membership Recruitment and Retention

Two new institutions were approved for active membership beginning fall 2026:

- **Wesleyan College (Ga.)**, planning to join the Southern States Athletic Conference
- **Andrew College (Ga.)**, also planning to join the Southern States Athletic Conference

The NAIA has enhanced its membership recruitment and retention efforts, with a particular focus on NCAA Division II and III institutions. As part of these initiatives, the “Why NAIA” website was refreshed to better highlight the value and advantages of NAIA membership. This strategy has been effective; last year, the NAIA received 12 membership applications—the highest number in the past decade.

Collaboration plays a key role, with NAIA members involved in 80% of current recruitment efforts. Members are encouraged to support this work by connecting the NAIA with potential schools. If you know of interested institutions or helpful contacts, please reach out to **Nick Davidson at ndavidson@naia.org**.

NAIA Championship Streaming

The NAIA is entering year two of its agreement with **Urban Edge Network (UEN)**. Over the past year, many NAIA conferences have also partnered with UEN, enhancing visibility and alignment across the association.

In year two, the national office has expanded coverage to include early-round competitions during national championships.

For fall 2025:

- All women’s volleyball opening-round matches were streamed for free
- Host sites also had the option to stream early rounds in men’s and women’s soccer, as well as football

Postseason Roster Adjustments (If Applicable)

The Council approved increases to the number of student-athletes permitted in uniform for postseason competition across several sports, effective for the **2025–26 academic year**.

Updated postseason roster limits:

- Men's & Women's Volleyball: **18 → 20**

These updates are intended to better reflect sport participation needs and help institutions manage postseason roster requirements.

Opening Round Host Site Policy Update

A new evaluation system has been approved to assess host institutions during national championship preliminary rounds. The system includes two categories of offenses—primary and secondary—to ensure consistent hosting standards.

Offense Structure:

- One primary offense = one strike
- Two secondary offenses = one strike

Consequences:

- **One strike:** Institution becomes ineligible to host that sport's opening round the following year
- **Two strikes within the same year:** Institution becomes ineligible to host *any* postseason event the following year

To support host sites, the national office is implementing a daily reporting system for preliminary round locations to identify and correct issues in real time.

Postseason Selection

The NAC is conducting a comprehensive review of all National Selection Committee processes to ensure consistency, fairness, and alignment across sports.

As part of this effort, the NAC has:

- Realigned Areas Rating Committees (ARCs) to establish comparable structures across most sports
- Standardized key operational practices, including:
 - Each National Selection Committee meeting four times per season
 - ARC ratings released on a unified four-cycle schedule
 - Final ARC ratings published on the same day the National Selection Committee meets

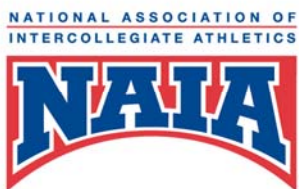
These updates aim to enhance transparency, uniformity, and clarity in the national selection process.

Five Seasons of Competition

The Path Forward Task Force (PFTF), created after the April 2025 NAIA Convention, has spent six months evaluating rapidly evolving areas of college athletics. One resulting recommendation is the consideration of **five seasons of competition**, recognizing the need to balance higher education principles with competitive positioning relative to other associations.

The PFTF shared its recommendations with the Council of Presidents in October 2025, after which the Council chose to proceed with a legislative proposal.

Efforts are underway to share information with the membership to help institutions form informed perspectives. A membership survey will be distributed in early December, and feedback will inform the final legislative proposal. As the sponsoring body, the Council of Presidents will have authority over its final drafting.



Coach's Guide: Legislation, Policies & Sport Rules

A coaches association takes action through sport motions, but different processes apply for motions that implicate sport rules, policy changes and legislative amendments.

Sport Rule: Sport rules are those specific rules that dictate on-field conduct and playing rules of the game. The NAIA has adopted the NCAA rulebook in nearly all sports (exceptions: tennis, golf, competitive cheer and dance, and bowling), though specific NAIA rule modifications can be made by the coaches association and National Administrative Council (NAC). The NAIA may have some general policies that apply to game management or conduct in competition (e.g. suspensions resulting from ejections, etc.), but these NAIA policies only apply if the sport rule is silent or more lenient. Sport rule books can be found on each "Coaches Corner" page (www.naia.org)

How to make a change:

- Sport motion by coaches association
- Must be approved by NAC
- Will be considered an NAIA rule modification

Policy: Regulations found in the official policy sections of the handbook. Each governing council of the NAIA has a policy section that covers specific topics within that council's purview. The NAC oversees all coaches association and any issues arising from coaches associations. Policy can be changed at the will of the council. NAC, COP, CFAR and CSA policy can be found in the NAIA Handbook (www.naia.org/legislative)

How to make a change:

- Sport motion by coaches association
- Changes to NAC Policy: Must be approved by full NAC (occurs at convention or NACDA). Will be added to the NAC policy.
- Changes to COP, CFAR or CSA policy: Coaches associations do not have a direct line to propose changes in these policies. Should a sport motion apply to one of these policy sections, the sport's officers and national office liaison can share the motion with the applicable council as a recommendation. It will be that council's discretion to determine if any action is warranted.

Legislation: Anything found in the NAIA Constitution or Bylaws. Any change or amendment to the constitution or bylaws can only be done through a vote of the full membership at the annual NAIA national convention. The constitution and bylaws can be found in the NAIA Handbook (www.naia.org/legislative)

How to make a change:

- Any association, council, standing committee or conference can sponsor a legislative amendment, and in some cases a co-sponsor is required. (Coaches associations must receive co-sponsorship from any of those groups except another coaches association.)
- Proposals must be submitted to the office by mid-January.
- All submitted proposals that have requisite co-sponsorship will be voted on by the full membership at the annual convention.



Sport Motion #1

MOTION:

Add an additional NAIA RPI and ARC ranking release in the middle of September bringing the total number of releases up to 5.

RATIONALE:

There are a lot of important non-conference matches being played in August and early September. It would be beneficial to have the committees sort through early matches before teams turn their focus to conference play. It would allow a team to emerge as someone to keep an eye on throughout the year before they get into the conference and beat up on each other. The additional transparency would allow coaches to know where they stand and how they are being viewed in their respective regions.

HISTORY BEHIND MOTION:

Other fall sports have more NAIA release dates than volleyball - namely football and soccer. Conferences are growing and many conferences are requiring teams to play the majority of their matches within their given conference. With those recent changes, many schools don't have the available dates to play non-conference matches after Labor day. This puts more and more importance on those few non-conference matches coaches are able to schedule early in the year.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

None

START DATE:

2026-27

Sport Motion #2

MOTION:

Have the final release of the NAIA RPI and ARC ranking public before the national selection committee meets.

RATIONALE:

Adds a level of transparency for coaches to know where they stand and how they are viewed in their respective regions. They then can plan practices, training, and meetings better. They have time to digest the data and prepare their teams for watching or not watching the selection show.

HISTORY BEHIND MOTION:

Currently, the final release isn't public until after selection has been completed. This is problematic and leaves too much gray area in the final selection of teams deserving consideration. The window from the end of conference tournaments to the national selection committee meeting is too small. The window from the release of the final ARC and RPI to watching the selection show is also too small.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

None

START DATE:

2026-27

Sport Motion #3

MOTION:

Add winning percentage as a primary criteria for national tournament selection.

RATIONALE:

This change would bring a balance to our national selection criteria. This would allow the national selection committee to discuss more about not just who each team has played (which is already present in our criteria) but whether or not they win against those teams.

HISTORY BEHIND MOTION:

Winning percentage is a primary part of sports when trying to pick the best of the best. Most sports in the NAIA have winning percentage in their criteria for national selection.

With the NAIA's removal of the Top-25, it left many sports trying to figure out what to have in their selection criteria. In 2025, volleyball revamped ours and it did well. However, the weight of winning percentage is noticeably absent.

CURRENT Primary Criteria (No Weight or Order):

- NAIA RPI (25% WP, 50% Opp WP, 25% Opp-Opp WP)
- Massey Ratings
- NAIA Strength of Schedule (67% Opp WP, 33% Opp-Opp WP)
- Results vs all teams under consideration for the National Tournament (including all teams that are represented in the final ARC Rankings as well as any team that finished first or second in their conference.

Therefore, the majority of our criteria favors who you played and not if you beat them or not. This lacks balance and the addition of winning percentage on its own will bring more balance to the conversations of the selection committee.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

None

START DATE:

2026-27

Sport Motion #4

MOTION:

Remove "Results vs all teams under consideration for the National Tournament (including all teams that are represented in the final ARC Rankings as well as any team that finished first or second in their conference.)" from the national selection criteria.

RATIONALE:

This verbiage causes confusion to coaches and isn't helpful to the selection committee. The data is time consuming and difficult to obtain from Presto.

Once obtained, the information is:

1. redundant because we already have multiple criteria covering strength of schedule.
2. deceiving because the field includes teams who have AQs but are not high in the RPI or Massey
3. confusing because it is unclear who is first or second in the conference is (regular season or tournament).

HISTORY BEHIND MOTION:

With the NAIA's removal of the Top-25, it left many sports trying to figure out what to have in their selection criteria. In 2025, volleyball revamped ours and it did well. However, there is a short turn around window to gather the final data from Presto to national selection due to the conference tournament deadline and the national selection committee meeting. Then once it is gathered - it causes more harm than good this season. See rationale.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

None

START DATE:

2026-27

Sport Motion #5**MOTION:**

Require all post-season matches (conference or national) to be recorded from the end line view. Specifically, the film should be recorded behind the end line but between the sidelines.

RATIONALE:

There is a wide range of angles that conferences are utilizing in post-season play for video recording. Some of them are harder to scout than others. This leads to a discrepancy in fairness for quality scouting opportunities. This motion ensures a level of consistency in the quality of film every team receives.

HISTORY BEHIND MOTION:

The NAIA opening round requires all qualified teams to send a match to their opponents for scouting purposes within the given time frame. This match is almost always from a conference post-season. This specific angle requested in this motion is widely known, possible and preferred within the sport of volleyball. This is also the camera angle which covers what most technology companies would use to utilize the stat and scouting breakdowns that teams are paying for annually.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

None

START DATE:

2026-27

Sport Motion #6**MOTION:**

Change the national film exchange policy from uploading their most recent game film to the Hudl video exchange program that does not include an opponent in the championship field to simply upload their most recent game film to the video exchange program.

RATIONALE:

The film some teams receive for scouting purposes for the opening round isn't accurate, helpful, or recent in some cases due to the rule that requires teams to upload against an opponent that isn't in the field. This is a disadvantage to one team over the other in many cases. Primarily this happens in conferences which are highly competitive and the whole several teams are in the national field.

HISTORY BEHIND MOTION:

The current policy was added because of the competitive disadvantage it gave to teams from conferences with multiple teams in the field because often there were multiple matches from one single team being put into the exchange. For example: one team who wins their conference tournament was the final opponent of three other teams who are also in the field.

Although this problem would return - the technological changes and accessibility of film has changed massively. Everyone now has access to everyone else's film with the internet and streaming services. This weakens what used to be a big disadvantage for that team to simply an annoying hassle for the coaches scouting to have to watch film from the live-stream angle and not be able to utilize the stats and film breakdown services that we pay for annually.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

None

START DATE:

2026-27

Sport Motion #7**MOTION:**

NAIA Opening Round host schools must remove portable basketball hoops from the volleyball playable area.

RATIONALE:

Host schools to remove portable basketball hoops from the volleyball playable area for three main reasons: safety, fairness, and compliance with official volleyball space requirements.

HISTORY BEHIND MOTION:**1. Player Safety**

- Portable hoops are heavy, mobile pieces of equipment with wheels, bases, and support arms. Even if pushed off to the side, they pose risks:
- Players can collide with the base during run-throughs or saves.
- A ball can deflect off the equipment unpredictably.
- The hoop could shift or roll slightly if not secured.
- In a postseason environment, NAIA cannot risk preventable injuries from nearby equipment.

2. Required Clearance Around the Court

- NAIA follows the same standards as other governing bodies (NCAA, USAV, NFHS): Volleyball matches must have a clear, unobstructed free zone around all sides of the court—typically:
- At least 10 feet of free space around the entire court (minimum)
- No equipment may interfere with player movement or the flight of the ball.
- Portable hoops within this "free zone" violate the rule because they create an obstruction.

3. Fairness and Competitive Integrity

- Volleyball rules prohibit anything that could interfere with the ball's trajectory during play:
- If a ball touches a hoop or support structure, it alters the play unfairly.
- Overhead or side obstructions give one team an unintended advantage or disadvantage.
- To ensure a neutral, uniform competition area, NAIA mandates that all portable equipment must be removed.

4. Liability and Tournament Standards

- Because this is an official postseason event, NAIA demands stricter facility standards:
- Lower tolerance for hazards or obstructions

- Higher expectation of a “championship-quality environment”
- Reduced legal liability for the host institution
- Removing portable hoops ensures compliance with hosting requirements.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

Conference tournaments might need to start a day sooner depending on location and format. There is the potential for National Selection Committee members to meet in person by traveling on the Saturday after the conference tournaments

START DATE:

2026-27

Sport Motion #8**MOTION:**

Require Opening Round host schools to use a three ball system during the match.

RATIONALE:

A 3-ball retrieval system in volleyball involves designated ball retrievers (shaggers) positioned around the court (often corners/behind referee stand) to quickly give the next ball to the server after a rally ends, ensuring minimal delay, usually using a quick two-handed chest pass to the server's general area, supporting a fast-paced flow of play and enabling variations like 'Tripleball' where the service rotates after every 3-ball sequence (serve, toss 1, toss 2).

HISTORY BEHIND MOTION:

Reduces Downtime: The primary reason is to minimize the time between rallies. With a fresh ball always available, the server can receive a new ball immediately, avoiding delays while the previous ball is chased down.

Maintains Momentum: Quick ball retrieval helps teams maintain their momentum, especially when they are on a scoring run. Long breaks can disrupt the flow and focus of the players.

Player Focus and Safety: Players can concentrate entirely on the next play and their strategy without the distraction of retrieving balls. This also removes a potential safety hazard of players running off-court to chase a ball.

Professionalism: The system is standard in high-level, official, and professional competitions (often with 5 or 6 balls total) to ensure the match runs smoothly and is more television-friendly.

Better Experience for All: It provides a more seamless and continuous experience for players, coaches, officials, and spectators.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

Potential cost of hiring ball shaggers.
This can be a student

START DATE:

2026-27

Sport Motion #9

MOTION:

Add challenge review system (CRS) as a requirement for volleyball opening round hosts by the fall of the 2027 season. The requirement includes a minimum of three camera angles and the ability for the review to be done courtside on the scores table.

RATIONALE:

It would aid in the quality and professionalism of the national tournament experience. It would add uniformity from the opening round to the final site. It would allow coaches who don't use CRS currently to experience it prior to the final site if their team is the one to advance.

HISTORY BEHIND MOTION:

Challenge review system is now becoming more accessible in volleyball across the country. The NAIA added in for all matches at the national tournament final site in 2024. Two NAIA conferences require it for conference play - Cascade and Frontier. Many individual programs utilize it in their gyms. Other sports such as basketball have similar legislation in place.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

This would be different from one school to the next depending on their current media setup. Potentially a school would need additional cameras; screen (monitor, laptop or iPad); compatible software; and a game management worker to assist the officials courtside. Many schools already possess the needed technology it would just be a matter of setting it up prior and learning to use it well.

START DATE:

2027-28

Sport Motion #10

MOTION:

Starting in 2027, All NAIA Championship qualifiers (Conference and regular season champions) are to be determined by the Friday evening before the NAIA National Selection Committee meeting, which takes place the following Sunday.

RATIONALE:

With conference tournament play finishing on Friday, ARC chairs will have time to meet by Saturday, and data for the RPI and Massey analytics can be collected. This information can then be made available to the National Selection Committee in plenty of time before the meeting.

HISTORY BEHIND MOTION:

There are a number of conferences whose tournaments end late Saturday evening. ARC chairs have in some cases met in the late in the evening to put together their final ranking. Collecting data for the RPI and Massey to give to the Selection Committee is being put together at the last minute without time for the committee members to review before the selection meeting.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

Conference tournaments might need to start a day sooner depending on location and format. Potential for National Selection Committee members to meet in person by traveling on the Saturday after the conference tournaments

START DATE:

2027-28

